

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION

Staff Report for Item No. 5

**Tentative Addendum No. 1 to
Resolution No. R9-2003-0391**

**AN EMERGENCY CONDITIONAL TEMPORARY
WAIVER OF STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS TO
FILE A REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE AND
FOR ADOPTION OF WASTE DISCHARGE
REQUIREMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT AND
DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE FROM THE 2003
WILDFIRE DESTRUCTION IN THE SAN DIEGO
REGION.**

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1. INTRODUCTION

During October and November 2003, wildfires in the San Diego Region have burned 402,600 acres destroying 3,300 structures, 223 vehicles and damaging 92 buildings. The Regional Board staff estimated the disaster would generate between 150,000 and 300,000 tons of wildfire related debris. The Regional Board adopted Resolution No. R9-2003-0391 to help expedite the cleanup and disposal of wildfire debris from the affected areas of the San Diego Region. The continued availability of Resolution No. R9-2003-0391 will be an essential tool for the efficient and effective cleanup of the remaining wildfire debris in San Diego County. To date, over 58,000 tons of debris have been discharged into the Region's active landfills. Recent estimates from the County of San Diego suggest that the wildfire debris cleanup and disposal work is only 50 percent complete at this time.

2. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - STATUS

The Regional Board Land Discharge Unit (LDU) staff continues coordinate our efforts with the public and other local, and State agencies on debris management issues in the aftermath of the wildfires that devastated large areas of the San Diego Region. The Regional Board LDU staff also remains in close contact with landfill operators and other State and local agencies (City and County) as they continue to work through various solid waste management issues associated with the cleanup effort.

Since the Regional Board adopted Resolution No. R9-2003-0391 (November 2003), the Regional Board enrolled a total of 11 dischargers for coverage under the conditional waiver for management of wildfire debris. During the month of February 2004, the Regional Board staff enrolled the following facilities for coverage under Resolution No. R9-2003-0391:

Discharger Name	Facility Name	Facility Address
San Diego Landfill Systems/ Allied Waste Inc.	Palomar Transfer Station	6960 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008
San Diego Landfill Systems/ Allied Waste Inc.	Viejas Transfer Station	7850 Campbell Ranch Road, Alpine, CA 91901
San Diego Landfill Systems/ Allied Waste Inc.	Julian Medium Volume Transfer Station	500 Pleasant View Drive, Julian, CA 92036

To date, the management and disposal of wildfire solid wastes in San Diego County has been reported to the Regional Board as follows:

City of San Diego: West Miramar Landfill - as of February 24, 2004, their records indicate approximately 17,432 tons of fire wastes. The City staff also provided further information on this total as follows:

Source(s) of Fire Debris	Tons	Percentage (%)
City of San Diego	15,472	89
County unincorporated areas	980	6
City of Poway	647	4
City of El Cajon	321	2
City of Escondido	12	0.05
Total =	17,432	100%

A graph of wildfire waste disposal at the West Miramar Landfill is illustrated on **Figure 1**.

Allied Waste Inc.: Ramona, Sycamore and Otay Landfills - as of February 29, 2004 they report a total of 40,882 tons approximately distributed as follows:

Ramona LF - approximately 4,112 tons

Sycamore LF (east of City San Diego) – 36,224 tons.

Otay LF - no specific data reported this month, the existing total is 546 tons.

A graph of wildfire waste disposal at the Allied Waste facilities (Sycamore, Ramona and Otay Landfills) is illustrated on **Figure 2**.

At the outset of the disaster, the Regional Board LDU staff estimated the total amount of wildfire related debris would range between 150,000 and 300,000 tons (depending upon the level of cleanup at all sites). As of the end of February 2004, approximately 57% of the generated wildfire wastes have reportedly been derived from County unincorporated areas while approximately 30% have come from the City of San Diego. The facilities receiving the most wildfire related wastes continue to be the Sycamore or West Miramar Landfills (both located in proximity to City of San Diego). The grand total was 57,957 tons of wildfire related wastes discharged to date and are approximately distributed as follows:

**OVERALL WILDFIRE WASTE MANGEMENT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY (Data through February 2004)**

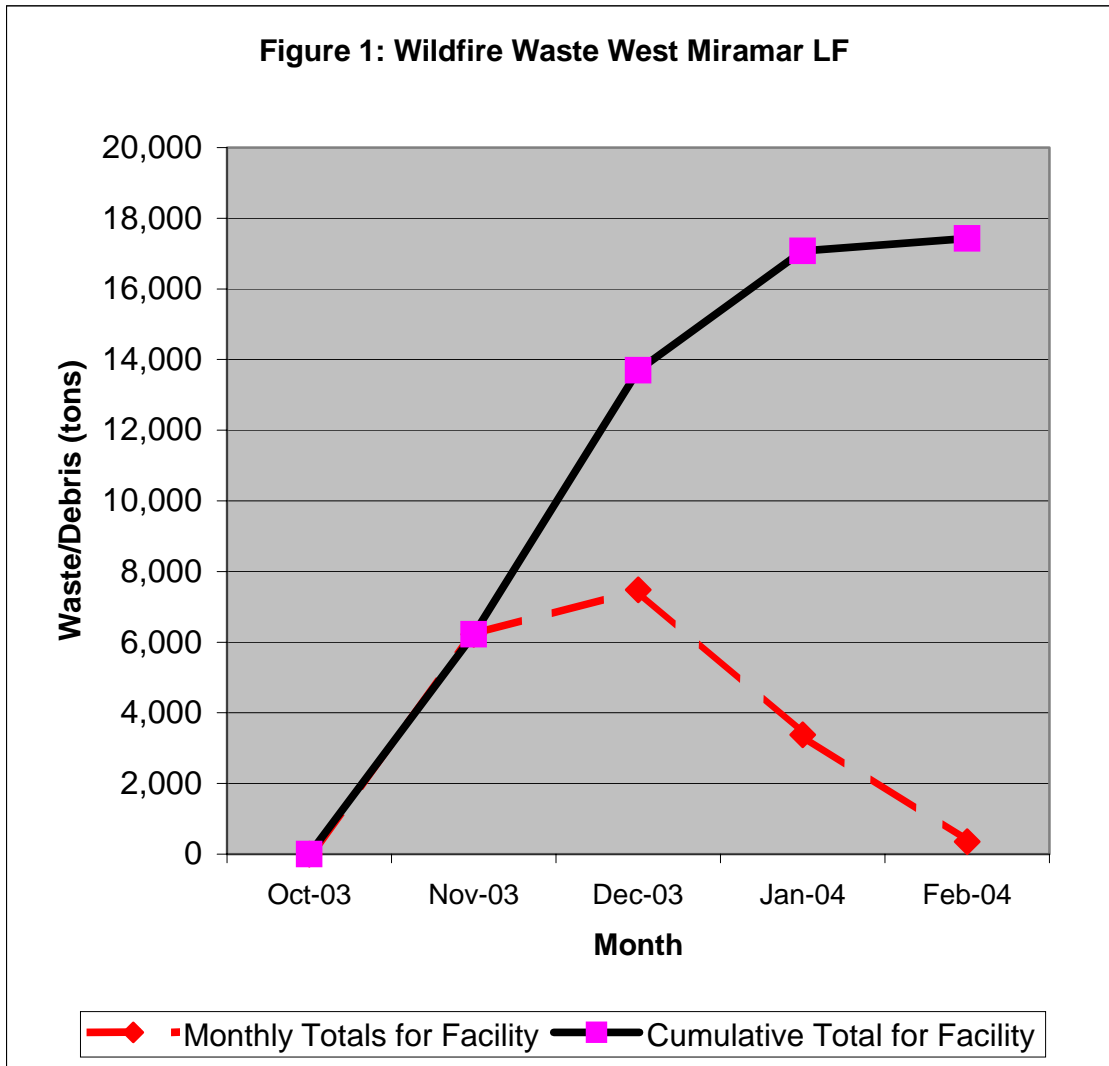
Source(s)	Total (tons)	Percent %
County	32,777	57%
San Diego	17,455	30%
El Cajon	5,312	9%
Poway	1,750	3%
Santee	314	1%
Ramona	86	0.16%
Barona	81	0.15%
Escondido	124	0.24%
San Marcos	27	0.05%
Campo	11	0.02%
Pala	9	0.02%
La Mesa	7	0.01%
Carlsbad	4	0.01%
TOTALS =	57,957	100%

A graph of wildfire waste disposal data for the civilian landfills in San Diego County (Sycamore, Ramona, Otay, and West Miramar Landfills) is illustrated on **Figure 3**.

Incorporating data from the City of San Diego (Environmental Services Division or ESD) and recent field observations, the LDU staff estimates that between 40 and 50 percent of the total wildfire wastes (based upon an estimate of 150,000 tons) in the San Diego County may have been discharged into local Class III MSW Landfills as of the end of February 2004.

From regional trends in the waste disposal data (see **Figure 3**), it appears that the maximum rate of disposal was associated with cleanup of the Scripps Ranch area (327 homes destroyed) during November and December 2003. As of February 2004, the City of San Diego ESD staff reported that fire debris from all 327 burned homes have been removed with only the pre-existing slabs remaining in the Scripps Ranch area. Debris removal and cleanup work in the unincorporated areas of the County (approximately 3,000 homes/structures destroyed on approximately 1,500 parcels) are expected to generate significantly more debris/wastes for disposal at a much slower pace and cleanup taking place over a period of months or years. The anticipated slower pace of the cleanup in the unincorporated areas seems to be supported by recent reports published in the North County Times (see *Attachment 6 to this Agenda Item*). Resolution No. R9-2003-0391 is due to expire on June 30, 2004. The situation described above indicates a continuing need for expeditious management and disposal of wildfire related solid wastes

in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County, the staff recommends that the current conditional waiver be extended until September 30, 2005.



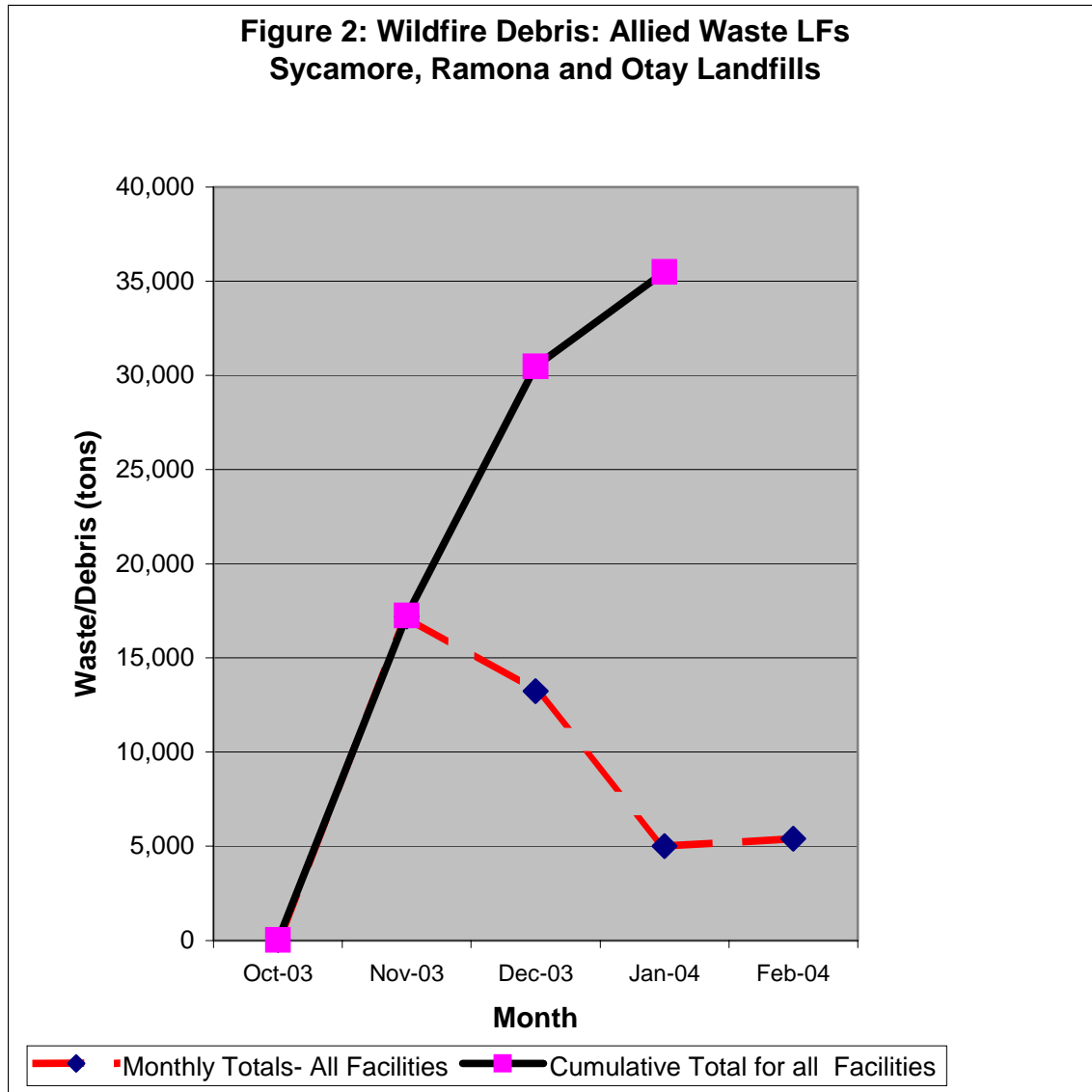
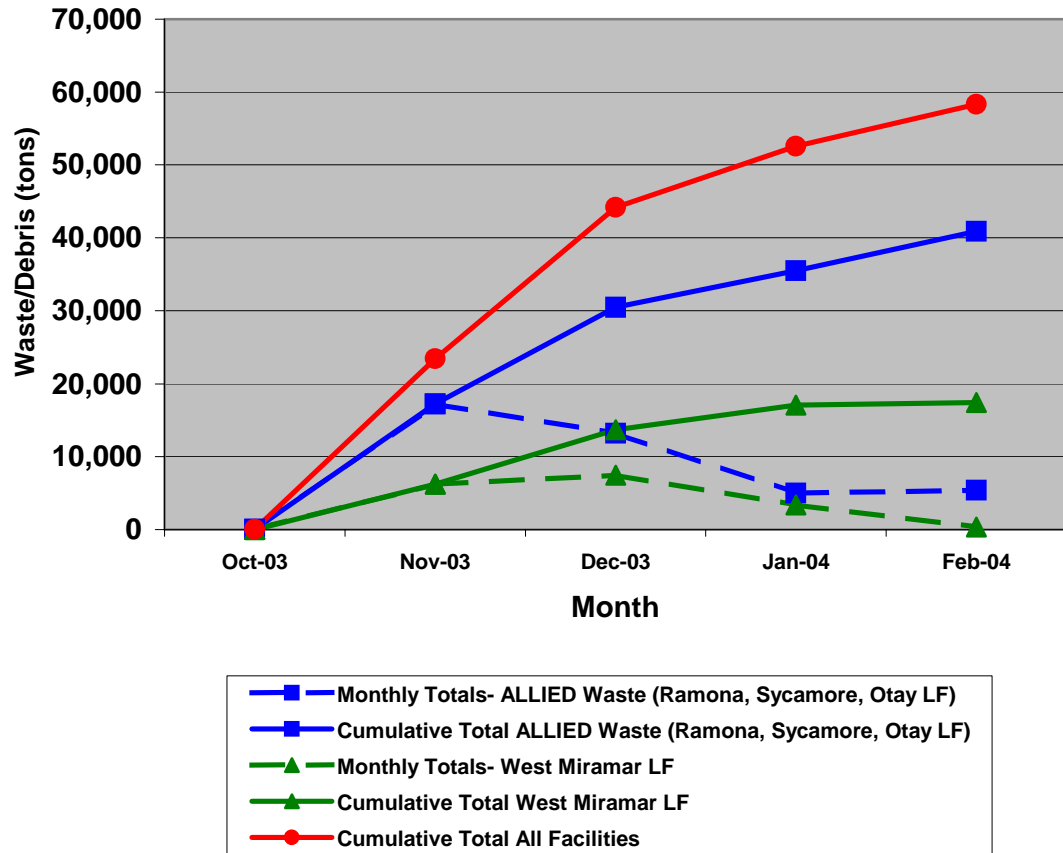


Figure 3: Wildfire Debris Disposal at Civilian Landfills in San Diego County



3. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Regional Board staff recommends adoption of tentative Addendum No. 1 to Resolution No. R9-2003-0391.